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W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS

BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Of especial interest in the summary for this week: Reports on cooperation of the farm labor program; efforts to overcome the feed shortage; work of 4-F Club boys in reporting on cotton insect infestation; activities of negro farmers in food production.

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NEW YORK

August 28, 1943

Farm labor.--Though farm labor program has met many major and minor difficulties, it is helping to meet serious shortage of help for harvesting. Greatest shortage may come in September in apple and tomato harvest. Cherry picking on one 690-acre fruit farm in Wayne County was done largely by 123 Victory Corps Cadets, many of them college girls. They performed efficiently.

In Cortland County, in mid-August, farmers were threatened with loss of \$200,000 worth of beans for lack of pickers. In response to call for volunteers, 400 apprentice seamen, V-12 students at Cornell University, spent a Sunday helping to harvest this crop.

To improve extension program for aiding farmers to find short cuts and increase their labor efficiency, moving pictures, still pictures, and detailed time records were obtained on different methods of doing various farm jobs to show how work can be done with least time, travel, and effort. They will be used in variety of ways as suitable opportunities occur.

Farm machinery.--Revised procedure being followed in survey to determine farm machinery needs. Brief questionnaire has been sent to 18,000 minutemen; 14 district engineers will report on conditions they have found; records will be obtained from ration boards showing what machinery was sold and delivered in 1943 and what requests were not filled. All these data will be combined and checked against research data showing normal lifetime of different types of machinery. Returns already received indicate that data showing kind of machines required will be most valuable. Most of it will be additional equipment to meet labor shortages. Surprising amount of old equipment has been repaired. Most replacements needed are for tractor-drawn machines to replace smaller horse-drawn equipment.

In clinics conducted by Extension about 4,300 farmers learned this year how to clean, adjust, and protect electric motors from overload. Farmers attending brought in for supervised overhauling about 1,100 motors from pump houses, homes, and barns. Work will be continued through fall and winter.

Potato spray rings.--This year, 50 new potato spray rings have been organized making a total of 83 for State. Rings take care of spraying operations on more than 21,000 acres in small fields. About two-thirds of State's potato acreage is in hands of large growers who have necessary machinery.

Feed situation.--Present recommendations for avoiding sudden liquidation of livestock are:

1. Cull laying flocks. About 20 percent of birds can be removed without lowering egg production. Cull pullets before they go to laying quarters.
2. Grow more winter grains, especially wheat. Plow early in August, if possible, and for best yield sow wheat a week before Hessian-fly season. Acreage limits have been removed, and nitrogen fertilizer can be used on grain.
3. Cut standing hay if at all possible; appeal for additional volunteers or city workers for help.
4. Pasture unharvested meadows to get feed and to rest permanent pastures.
5. Feed grain conservatively to cows now getting good pasture or other roughage.

On farms where barns and haystacks show abundant roughage reserves, dairymen are advised to cull only diseased, sterile, and old cows, and to get as much milk as possible on roughage feeds alone from poorer producers.

Nutrition.--State-wide human nutrition program is carried on under local direction of 91 county and city War Council Nutrition Committees, representing institutions and agencies that teach nutrition, plus interested lay people. Assistant State home demonstration leader gives major attention to assisting in organization of local committees and interpreting programs of State Emergency Food Commission.

Home demonstration agents have been asked by State Emergency Food Commission to act as coordinators of human nutrition programs in their areas. They are to serve as direct line of communication between commission and people of State, and clear all food and nutrition programs within counties to avoid overlapping and wasteful duplication. In general, this will be done through work and planning of nutrition committees, but special responsibility is placed on home demonstration agents to see that purpose is accomplished.

Emergency home demonstration agents being placed in 18 up-State cities to work solely on foods and nutrition programs, including food preservation and Food Information Service for consumers. They will be supervised by county home demonstration agents and will work closely with city nutrition committees. Training school for these agents was held at college of home economics. Program included discussion of present food situation and adjustments homemakers will need to make in management of time and resources and in family food habits. Emphasis given to teaching methods, including demonstrations, exhibits, radio and newspaper publicity.

Texas

September 1, 1943

Labor.-In week ended August 20, more than 30,000 town adults, boys, and girls were reported by county agricultural agents as helping on Texas farms and ranches. From drought-stricken area around Erath County, 15 able-bodied men were moved to rice fields in southeast Texas and their families taken to Johnson County for cotton picking. Two truckloads of negro workers were recruited in northeast Texas for work in rice harvest, and others were to follow for peak about September 15. Late in August, labor situation as it affected cotton picking became tighter. In blacklands area of central Texas dry weather and high temperatures caused crop to mature 2 to 3 weeks earlier than usual. In Gulf coast area, labor shortage likely will not be relieved until harvest nears completion. If dry, hot weather continues, cotton in low rolling plains will reach its peak in near future. On account of inexperience prisoners of war thus far have been able to average only 60 to 65 pounds per man daily, which is too slow and expensive to growers. Townspeople, both adults and young folks, are turning out at rate of about 16,000 a week to help harvest crops. Rice growers have requested about 3,500 Mexican nationals. Rice area at present is considered most critical section in State with regard to farm labor.

Beef cattle.-Protein feed situation continues to concern ranchmen and feeders. Drought in most of State has caused deterioration of range, and feed crops will be seriously curtailed. Price of feeds has discouraged feeders from putting usual number of cattle into feed lots. As result of this and labor shortage, many feeders will attempt to graze fields and run cattle on small grain rather than full-feed them at this time. Since feeder calves are not being contracted by feeders as in former years, prices have dropped from \$1 to \$2 a hundredweight. Field work of beef-cattle specialists devoted mostly to selection of 4-H calves and helping breeders of purebred and commercial cattle to shape up herds by culling inferior animals for marketing.

Cotton.-Assistance given in setting up county-wide cotton-improvement program based on grade, staple, and spinning qualities. Money prizes to be awarded to both grower and ginner because of dual responsibility for producing, harvesting, and handling of cotton, and for turning out good ginning sample to maintain quality of lint required for production of wartime fabrics. Eight cotton ginner's meetings, attended by 1,750 farmers and ginner's, were given information on war needs for high-grade cotton, and conservation and care of ginning machinery.

4-H Club insect spotters.-More than 500 members of boys' 4-H Clubs in 69 principal cotton-growing counties served wartime agriculture this summer by reporting on cotton insect infestation to State Extension Service. Inspection was part of plan employed by Extension to provide Government officials with weekly reports on infestation and thereby systematize allocation of cotton poisons. On basis of boys' reports, cotton poisons were distributed to areas having greatest need. Use of club boys as reporters was begun this year on trial basis, and spot checking revealed their reports were highly accurate. Average of 449 cottonfields were inspected and reported on each week in June, July, and August. Since reports showed lighter infestation in Texas this year than

usual, shipments of insecticides were diverted to North and South Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi, where infestation was heavy. In recognition of fine work, Extension will present certificate of merit to each 4-H insect reporter.

Rodent control.--Marked increase this year in requests from county agents for assistance in controlling rodent depredations on growing crops. Panhandle area reports instances where prairie dogs cut down crop over 4 or 5 acres that normally produce 3/4 bale of cotton, or 1 ton of maize an acre, causing considerable losses. Jack rabbits were menace mainly in soybean and peanut fields, where they destroyed considerable acreage of growing crops. Through cooperation of Extension and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, situation has been brought fairly well under control in most areas.

Horticulture.--Since Texas can produce large quantities of vegetable foods during winter season, special emphasis is being given to fall gardens. In August, starting point of fall garden season, 100,000 new fall garden bulletins were available, in addition to stories for magazines and farm publications, radio broadcasts, and newspaper releases. Other educational agencies and civic groups in contact with farm and city people are cooperating in program. Points emphasized include soil preparation, suitable varieties, early planting of quick-growing vegetables to mature before frost, and planting of semi-hardy and hardy vegetables to withstand winter temperatures. In winter garden and Rio Grande valley areas intensive work will be done to increase commercial truck crops for shipping to Northern States during winter and early spring. Extra acreage of canning crops such as fall beans, beets, English peas, black-eyed and cream peas, and spinach, will be urged.

Poultry.--Recently 28 meetings were held to train county agricultural agents, vocational teachers, and Farm Security workers in egg-grading. They, in turn, are to extend this information to producers. Reduction of egg losses especially emphasized. During summer months losses from fertile eggs resulting from blood rings and heat damage amounted to 300,000 daily in State. Program for production of infertile eggs, given wide publicity, resulted in marketing of large number of male birds and decline in egg losses. Intensive program for feed conservation carried on in past 2 months. Letters sent to all county agents, encouraging immediate culling of nonproducing birds, were supplemented by radio broadcasts and press releases. Normally, heaviest culling occurs in September and October. It was estimated conservatively that advancing the date would save 72,000,000 pounds of feed. Program well received by producers and feed industry.

Home demonstration clubs.--In areas near Army camps, home demonstration club members act as hostesses for soldiers, serve refreshments in USO recreation centers, develop routines for week-end entertaining of soldiers in their homes. Some counties arrange for special week-end activities, and ask commanding officers of adjacent camps to invite a certain number of men. Frequently, they tell boys from county who are in neighboring camps about parties and suggest they get passes to attend. In areas near hospitals women contribute various articles for comfort of convalescent patients.

Home improvements.--Reseating used and discarded chairs to restore them to service in farm homes has been popular program with home demonstration club women

this year. Accordingly, few homes do not have examples of salvaged furnishings. In 1 month, 24 counties had chair clinics, all-day chair-seating schools, and similar meetings. Eleven such demonstrations, with total attendance of 88 women, were given in Van Zandt County. Chairs that might never have been used again were reclaimed. Bedroom improvement demonstrator rescued chair which had sat in yard until coated with mildew. It was cleaned and stained as demonstration at club meeting.

Negro activities.-Total of 1,900 negro laborers placed in 19 counties to assist in harvesting rice, hay, cotton, peas, and in planting of fall vegetables. Enrollment of farm labor in rural communities is handled by County Agricultural Victory Councils. Cooperation of churches, Boy Scouts, negro chambers of commerce, and civic clubs was enlisted in recruiting farm labor in cities and towns. These organizations keep in touch with farmers who need labor, and with laborers who want work. To simplify farm labor problems in Fort Bend, Cherokee, and Guadalupe Counties, negro county agents held meetings with farmers and discussed benefits of practicing good neighbor policy of exchanging labor. Recent check shows practice is being followed.

Reports from scattered counties show that negro families have canned 8,509 containers of foodstuffs under supervision of negro agents. Farm families who own pressure cookers and sealers share them with nonowners. Six method demonstrations in treating and storing dried peas and beans were held in recent weeks. Negro farmers in seven counties repaired sirup mills and are making sorghum sirup.

Recent check showed negro farmers in Matagorda County own 50 registered swine breeding stock worth \$3,500 and 43 registered pigs, ready for delivery, estimated worth \$645. Majority of negro farmers in county are taking part in swine-improvement program. Sixty-two farmers bought 30 tons of feed wheat cooperatively at saving of \$450.

In Harrison County, truck-garden produce has been moving to market in quantity. Neeman Taylor of Hallsville community sold \$1,200 worth of melons and cantaloups in field. He refused \$700 for 7-acre patch of melons and peddling them at good prices. Walter Bonner of Sweet Home Community reports selling \$70 worth of truck weekly. This income replaces some of money formerly obtained from cotton growing.

Mike Coleman, experienced Liberty County grower, planted 25 acres of abandoned sandy loam soil to watermelons and sold \$653 worth to truckers before shipping in carload lots. He shipped 1,000 melons averaging 30 pounds to Orange and received 3 cents a pound. As side enterprise he bought 25 hogs and feeds them on waste melons. His demonstration is believed to forecast larger production of melons in county.

Virginia
September 1, 1943

Farm labor.-Demands for labor to harvest truck in eastern Virginia continuing. Three camps being set up in northern Virginia for apple harvest. Early potatoes harvested; tomatoes and other truck crops still going to canneries; silos being filled all over State. To date, little of Virginia's variety of crops lost because of lack of labor. Recent report shows monthly placements of approximately 18,700 laborers, of which 12,400 were from outside State.

More than 1,000 Bahamians helped harvest truck in eastern Virginia; also 125 negro Boy Scouts from Richmond and Norfolk. About 250 convicts helping throughout State. Townspeople near cities have spent some vacation time helping nearby farmers. Approximately 1,300 boys under 18 have been placed in many sections. Some 2,000 service men have volunteered to spend leave working on farms near military camps.

Peak fall labor loads will come with harvest of 6,200,000 bushels of apples, 170,000 acres of peanuts, and large acreage of truck crops. Peanut section farmers and county agents organizing to recruit local help. Orchardists and truckers have placed orders for 2,000 laborers.

Timberville camp in Rockingham County now has 300 workers, about half local people and half vacationists from Washington, D.C. Number at this camp expected to be 600 to 700 for apple harvest. Camp at Winchester planned for 400 to 500 workers, including Bahamians, local, and interstate labor; camp in Clark County for 150 to 200, about half out-of-school youth and half vacationists from Washington.

Food conservation and storage.-Group of extension specialists held 18 regional training schools for 200 county extension workers on food storage. Training groups visited farms that had good storage; then farms needing storage facilities, where various methods were demonstrated. County workers will follow up with community storage meetings.

All home economists in Frederick County cooperating in monthly news letter on food conservation sent to all neighborhood and block leaders. Similar group, with aid of home economics department of Madison College, is conducting series of radio programs for mid-Valley listeners.

Mecklenburg County home demonstration club women are enjoying^{edible} soybeans. Their experiment started with distribution of seed among members selected as demonstrators last spring. Demonstrators agreed to show others how to use soybeans and to save seed for others to plant next year. Reports tell of good yields, interesting demonstrations at many clubs, general liking for soybeans, and realization of their food value.

Feed shortage.-Meetings held in every county where professional workers and farmers discussed feed situation and ways of helping to overcome shortage. All agencies working with agriculture joined in program with groups of three State or district workers visiting each county. Many counties followed up with community meetings. Publicity program placed emphasis on greater production of pasture, hay, and grain. Special plans worked out among State agencies with Federal representatives to ship in feeds to hard-hit drought area.

Milk production.--In addition to general program on feed crisis, dairy specialists held 9 special meetings on dairy feed problems (approximate attendance, 485). Efforts aimed at keeping dairy herds intact and milk production up. Combination of saving and producing feed plus imports to drought areas are reducing effects of feed shortage on milk production, though some decrease is unavoidable. Culling has been necessarily heavy in some sections. Calves and heifers also being shipped from better herds in drought areas to pasture in nondrought counties to be held as herd replacements.

Six counties participated in milking contest. Other counties to take part, with regional contest as wind-up. Expect 500 hand milkers of fair to good ability as total result. Will help relieve labor shortage and maintain output.

Woodlands.--Forestry work centered on checking lag in production and preparatory work on fire and safety campaigns for fall. Because of other farm work, most wood cutting in Virginia is off-season job, but seasonal lag is disturbing war effort. Emphasis in August on peeled pulpwood and fuel wood for this winter. Because of drought, added to labor problems, many part-time operators not planning to operate mills. Full-time operators doing good job in getting out white oak ship timbers and poplar veneer logs.

Ram and hog sales.--At one sale 56 registered lambs averaged \$44.26. Two purebred-hog sales in leading hog sections sold 65 boars, 23 head at one sale averaging \$40.19 and 42 at other averaging \$48.54. These better sires will aid in more economical livestock and meat program.

Poultry.--Culling, feeding, and management were demonstrated to 818 people at 63 meetings in August. Twenty other poultry meetings were held and 32 counties and 119 farms visited. General publicity has stressed rigid culling and economies in feeding.

Blood donors.--Orange County home demonstration clubs contributed to success of visit of Red Cross mobile blood-donor unit; aided in publicity and recruited volunteers. Many clubwomen were donors themselves. The 1-day visit netted 160 pints of blood. Clubs will assist again when unit makes another visit in September.

